

August 1951.

To the Chairman and Members
 of the WHITSTABLE URBAN
 DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have to present to you my twenty-first Annual Report
 as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of
 Whitstable.

Area of Urban District (excluding foreshore)	7,640 acres
" " " " (before 1934)	794 "
Population at Census 1931	10,820
" (estimated mid-1939)	15,620
" (" mid-1949)	17,230
" (" mid-1950)	17,400
Number of Houses 1931	3,466
" " Inhabited houses 1931	3,105
" " Inhabited houses 1950 (estimated)	6,900
" " Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	3,327
Rateable Value 1949	£145,083
Rateable Value 1950	£147,184
Sum represented by a penny rate 1949.	£590
" " " " " 1950.	£561

The areas of wards (down to High Water Mark
 Ordinary Tides) are as follows:-

Seasalter Ward	2,718 Acres
West Ward	440 "
Central Ward	150 "
South Ward	1,667 "
c/fwd:	<u>4,975 Acres</u>

Brought forward:-	...	...	...	4,975 Acres
Tankerton Ward	...	...	...	270 "
Swalecliffe Ward	...	...	...	<u>2,395 "</u>
				<u>7,640 "</u>

Area between High Water Mark Ordinary
Tide and Low Water Mark Ordinary Tide
as measured from 6" Ordnance Survey Map:-

2,333 Acres

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's mid-year estimate of the population for 1950 is 17,400, an increase of 170 on the figure given for the previous year. The estimate of the population at December 1949, given by the local Food Office, based on ration book issues, was 17,818; no figure for the corresponding period 1950 was available.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Whitstable is situated on the North Kent Coast in a bay of the same name. Parts of the old town are low-lying and protected by sea walls, the mean level of which is 16 feet above Ordnance datum. The lowest level of the district is 9.5 O.D. and the highest 222 O.D.

The physical features of the area are of rising ground to the east and the south, well-wooded hills rising gradually from the sea and old town. Away to the west is a large area of marshland, drained by dykes into the sea and in various parts of the district is farm land, much denuded by the extensive building operations between the two wars and now mostly given over to pasture. The whole area drains towards the sea, through the Swalecliffe brook, the Stream Dyke in the town and the Red and White Sluices at Seasalter. The sub-soil is London Clay. The climate is dry and bracing, with an excellent reputation for the treatment of respiratory diseases. The prevailing wind is south-westerly, but during the first three months of the year the winds are often cold and keen from an easterly or north-easterly direction, but for the remainder of the year it is very sunny and warm.

In this age when the urgent need is for peace and quiet, Whitstable is getting a fair share of the increasing number of visitors who come to the Kent coast for holidays, and also of new residents. If free scope were given to the building industry, I think the development of the area would quickly reach its pre-war proportions.

There is little in the way of industry in the town, a few light trades, with the possible introduction of others in the near future; activity in the small shipyards is much reduced from the war-time boom and the shipping in the harbour has not yet returned to the modest traffic of pre-war days. Mostly, the working population follow their occupations out of the district, travelling daily to the City and Medway towns.

PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES - These are as follows:-

	Acreage
Tankerton Sea Front and Slopes ...	25.1
Tankerton Circus Tennis Courts ...	1
Tankerton Castle ...	4
Westgate Terrace ...	0.66
Westcliff Slopes ...	2.5
West Beach Tennis Courts ...	1
Westmeads Recreation Ground ...	5
War Memorial ...	0.1
Belmont Sports Ground ...	6.8
Fox's Cross ...	4
Prospect House Field ...	6.52
Duncan Downs ...	<u>1.91</u>
	<u>58.59</u>
Parks, Walks and Open Grounds etc...	44.79
Playing Fields ...	<u>13.8</u>
	<u>58.59</u>

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	Totals	Males	Females	Total for 1949
<u>Live Births</u>	204	111	93	227
Legitimate	192	106	86	221
Illegitimate	12	5	7	6

	Totals	Males	Females	Total for 1949
<u>Still Births</u>	8	4	4	4
Legitimate	8	4	4	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population is:-

	<u>Corrected Rate</u>	<u>Uncorrected Rate</u>	<u>Rate for 1949</u>
Live Births	14.04	11.7	13.1
Still Births	0.55	0.46	0.23

The birth rate is for the first time subjected to a comparability factor which makes the rate for 1950 (14.04 live births per 1,000 population) higher than the uncorrected rate for 1949, but still lower than that for the whole country. The number of births is exceeded by the number of deaths. Still births are higher than last year (1949).

DEATHS

Total	Males	Females	Total for 1949
279	135	144	301

The death rate per 1,000 population is:-

		Rate for 1949
Crude death rate	16.0	17.4
Corrected death rate	10.0	10.9

There was a decrease of 22 in the total number of deaths over 1949. Tables giving the causes of death during 1950 and also chief causes in the previous ten years are given hereafter.

The death rate is highest at the two extremes of life and where the population of the district consists, as does that of Whitstable, of retired people mostly, an ageing and childless group forming a not inconsiderable proportion of the whole, the rate is fallacious unless some account is taken of this. The Registrar-General re-introduced the use

of a comparability factor for adjusting the death rate of Whitstable to the character of its population for the first time last year. It will be seen, therefore, that a crude (or uncorrected) death rate and a corrected or adjusted rate is given. A comparability factor has been introduced for the first time to correct the birth rate of the district.

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1950:-

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	-	-
Other forms of T.B.	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	1
Influenza	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm of lung bronchi	1	-
Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	5
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	12	17
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	24
Coronary disease . Angina	23	9
Hypertension with heart disease	4	3
Other heart diseases	32	41
Other circulatory diseases	13	8
Bronchitis	6	5
Pneumonia	2	1
Other respiratory diseases	2	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1
Hyperplasm of prostate	1	-
Nephritis and nephrome	-	2
Pregnancy - childbirth abortion	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	-
Suicide	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	2	1
All other causes	9	16
	<u>135</u>	<u>144</u>
	<u><u>135</u></u>	<u><u>144</u></u>
ALL CAUSES - MALES	135	FEMALES 144

Year	Notifiable Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Malignant Neoplasm	Heart and Circulatory Diseases	All Causes
1941	1	7	19	8	46	62	237
1942	1	5	12	2	34	107	220
1943	-	7	16	10	33	106	222
1944	1	3	11	5	42	106	220
1945	-	4	10	-	32	145	239
1946	-	7	15	7	48	119	267
1947	-	5	24	-	45	165	306
1948	-	8	9	2	47	131	261
1949	-	5	25	2	47	174	301
1950	-	-	16	1	42	175	279

The transferred deaths were:-

Inward: 78 Outward: 18

The age distribution of total deaths was:-

Under 1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and upwards
1 yr. yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	
2	-	-	1	1	6	37
						232

Of the deaths over 65, 19 were between the ages of 65 and 70, 105 between 70 and 80, 92 between 80 and 90, and 16 over 90, of which one was at 103 years.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one death associated with pregnancy, giving a maternal death rate of 0.47 per 1,000 births (live and still).

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year were as follows:-

	Total	Males	Females	Totals for 1949
Legitimate	2	2	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rates are as follows:-

		Rates for 1949
All infants per 1000 live births	9.8	13.1
Legitimate infants per 1000		
legitimate births	10.4	13.5
Illegitimate infants per 1000		
illegitimate births	00.0	00.0

The ages at and causes of death under one year were as follows:-

4 Hours	...	Prematurity. Atelectasis
5 "	...	Prematurity.
7 Days	...	Intra-cranial haemorrhage

Since all deaths were within the first month of life, the neo-natal death rate was the same as infantile mortality rate which at 9.8 per 1000 live births is an extremely low one and compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales, viz., 29.8 per 1000 live births.

There were no deaths among illegitimate births.

TABLE OF BIRTH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR
CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	W England		126	148	London
	H and	County	Smaller	Admin-	
	I Wales	Boro's	Towns	istrative	
	T	&	Resident	County	
	S	Great	Populat-		
	T	Towns	ions		
	A	includ-	25,000 to		
	B	ing	50,000 at		
	L	London	1931 Census		
	E				
<hr/>					
BIRTHS	Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
Live	14.04	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still	0.55	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
<hr/>					
DEATHS					
All Causes	10.0	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and					
Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.00	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

TABLE OF BIRTH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR
CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950

	(1) W H I T S T A B L E	(2) England and Wales	(3) 126 County Boro's & Great Towns Includ- ing London	(4) 148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	(5) London Admin- istrative County
<hr/>					
DEATHS (Contd)					
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	0.00	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	0.16	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
NOTIFICATIONS:-					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal infect- ion	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	3.50	1.50	1.56	1.16	1.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Whooping Cough	1.32	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	0.51	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Measles	12.52	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	0.80	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0.00	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Polioencephalitis (non-paralytic)	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
<hr/>					
	<u>Rates per 1000 Live Births</u>				
Deaths under 1 yr of age	9.8	29.8	33.8	29.4	26.3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	0.00	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
W	England	126	148	London
H	and	County	Smaller	Admin-
I	Wales	Boro's	Towns	istrative
T		& Great	Resident	County
S		Towns	Populat-	
T		includ-	ions	
A		ing	25,000 to	
B		London	50,000 at	
L			1931 Census	
E				

Rates per 1000 (live and still) Births

NOTIFICATIONS:-

Puerpural fever and Pyrexia	0.47	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03
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SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

A classified summary of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors is as follows:-

Total number of inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	4,954
Inspection of dwelling houses	...	...	...	...	1,821
" " shops	...	...	...	...	155
" " factories	...	...	...	...	111
" " bakehouses	...	...	...	...	21
" " dairies and cowsheds	...	...	...	...	57
" " camping sites etc.	...	...	...	...	227
" " ice cream premises and taking of samples	...	...	...	...	135
" " food preparing rooms and cafes	...	...	...	...	252
" " food premises	...	...	...	...	307
" " unsound food	...	...	...	...	152
" " infected houses	...	...	...	...	135
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	626
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	300
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	655

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

This consists of myself, Medical Officer of Health;

Mr.F.W.I.Whitehouse, Chief Sanitary Inspector; Mr.G.W.Carr, Additional Sanitary Inspector; Mr.P.K.Marsh, General Assistant, and Miss Slingsbury, Clerk.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Arrangements remain as described in previous reports, and I should like to again express my appreciation for the services rendered by the staff of the County Public Health Laboratory.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

During the year 35 scarlet fever and 2 measles cases were sent to Haine Hospital, Ramsgate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The main source of water supply to the Urban District is the Canterbury Water Co., with a small portion of the area (Yorkletts and part of Seasalter) by the Mid-Kent Water Co. A number of areas with sporadic development rely on rain water and scattered throughout the district approximately 90 houses have shallow wells.

Samples of the public supply taken during the year for chemical and bacteriological examination have been satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The extensive scheme of sewerage for the whole area, including re-sewering parts of the district to prevent flooding have continued to receive the consideration of the Council, and progress has been made. A Ministry of Health Inquiry into the Council's Scheme was held in September 1949.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The work of supervising house refuse collection and disposal is carried on by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Disposal continues to take place in a valley running down to the marshes at Seasalter, about 8 acres in extent. Approach is by the Coastal Road and the average haul is $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

HOUSING

During the year the Council has maintained house building progress so that at all times the maximum number permitted, 50 in all, have been under construction by the Council and by private builders under licence. The numbers of houses erected during the year are as follows:-

Number of houses erected by the Council	...	68
" " " " " private enterprise	...	24

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifiable infectious disease cases during 1950 and the four years previous:-

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>
Scarlet Fever	61	51	17	6	7
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	2
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	9	13	22	5	12
Pneumonia	14	13	15	22	31
Tuberculosis (Pul)	9	10	6	9	12
" (other forms)	1	3	5	9	7
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	3	-
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	-	-	-	-	1
Puerpural Fever)	1	2	1	2	-
" Pyrexia)	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	218	182	32	217	151
Whooping Cough	23	8	22	88	40
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria (recurrent)	-	1	-	1	-

A relatively large number of measles cases were notified (218) and 61 cases of scarlet fever, even more than last year, all of an extremely mild character. 35 were removed to Isolation Hospital.

There were no notifications of diphtheria, enteric fever or anterior poliomyelitis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

All information relating to diphtheria immunization is kept by the County Health Department, and the following details have been supplied by the County Medical Officer.

During 1950 a total of 162 children were immunized, 148 in the age group 1 - 5 years, and the remainder in the 5 - 15 years group; and 220 children in the 5 - 15 years group received reinforcing inoculations.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the child population for mid-year 1950 is as follows:-

0 - 4 years (inclusive)	...	1,367
5 - 14 years (inclusive)	...	2,065

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New Cases and Mortality 1950

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-				
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-				
5 - 15 years	-	1	-	-				
15 - 25 years	1	1	-	1				
25 - 35 years	2	1	-	-				
35 - 45 years	1	-	-	-				
45 - 55 years	2	-	-	-				
55 - 65 years	-	-	-	-				
65 years and up	-	-	-	-				
TOTAL:	6	3	-	1				

It will be noticed that there were no deaths of notified tuberculous cases during 1950.

TUBERCULOSIS 1950

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Cases on Register at Commencement of 1950	64	35	16	27	142
Cases notified during 1950	6	3	-	1	10
Cases restored to Register during 1950	4	-	2	1	7
Other Additions	5	1	-	-	6
Cases removed from Register during 1950	3	1	-	-	4
Cases remaining on register at end of 1950	76	38	18	29	161

C O N C L U S I O N

I must again express to Mr.Whitehouse and Mr.Carr my grateful thanks for the willing help given to me at all times. The work of these two has been steadily increasing - all the daily routine work has fallen on them and has been very ably carried out. The Shops Act, amongst other things, has caused a considerable rise in the amount of work to be done.

The number of scarlet fever cases has been slightly in excess of last year's figures, but again the cases have been mild and this mild character has undoubtedly been the cause of the continued run of cases, as probably a number of mild cases, with no obvious signs or symptoms at all, but still liable to spread infection, have not been seen by any doctor.

I would again express to Miss Slingsbury my thanks for the willing and able help she has given in the clerical work entailed in keeping the various records.

As this is my last year of office as Medical Officer of Health I would express to you Mr.Chairman, to the Chairman of the Health Committee, and to the other members of the Council, and all their predecessors, my grateful thanks for the kindly consideration and courtesy extended to me all through the 21 years I have held the post, during which time I have endeavoured to serve the interests of the town to the best of my ability without committing it to any unnecessary expenditure. I cannot terminate without again expressing to Mr.C.R.A.Martin my grateful thanks for his valuable help during the many years through which we were associated.

Your obedient Servant,

Charles E.Etheridge, M.B.Lond., M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GATE LODGE,
THE CASTLE,
WHITSTABLE.

August 1951.

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Whitstable Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifth Annual Report
of the work carried out by my Department during the
year 1950.

G E N E R A L

Total number of inspections made was 4,954, made
up as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	53
Milk Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	41
Cowsheeds	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Premises and Sampling.	...	...	...	...	...	135
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	113
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	181
Cafes, Restaurants, etc	...	...	...	...	...	188
Food Preparing Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	64
Fishfryers	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A) 1st Visit	...	...	...	...	...	371
Dwellinghouses (P.H.A) re-visit.	...	...	...	...	...	250
Dwellinghouses (Housing Act)	...	...	...	...	...	87
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	22
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	63
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	115
Movable Dwellings...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations..	...	...	...	...	...	82
Re-visits and Works in Progress.	...	...	...	...	...	357
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	322
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	38
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	135
Keeping of Animals..	...	...	...	...	...	34

Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	626
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	2
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	37
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	16
Infectious Diseases.	...	...	...	...	94
Public Conveniences.	...	...	...	...	35
Factories Act (Mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	89
Factories Act (Non-mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	22
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	143
Shops Acts (Evening inspections)	...	...	...	...	12
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	67
Requisitioning	...	...	...	...	238
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	152
Bedding and Disinfection..	...	...	...	...	72
Refuse Collection and Disposal..	...	...	...	...	300
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	69
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	179

NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following Notices were served:-

Number of Informal Notices	...	...	...	114
Number of Statutory Notices	...	...	...	25

With the following result:-

Number of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served.	...	79
Total number of Notices Completed	...	106

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated:-

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	27
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	16
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	30
Floors ventilated...	...	...	...	1
Doors and windows repaired	...	...	...	40
Dirty Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	56
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	6
Sinks repaired or renewed.	...	...	...	1
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	9
Brickwork repaired..	...	...	...	36
Fireplaces repaired and renewed.	...	...	...	10

Drains relaid or repaired.	34
Drains cleared	41
W.C's repaired or renewed.	23
W.C's provided with flushing apparatus	4
Ceiling and wall plaster repaired	56
Rising and/or penetrating damp..	46
Miscellaneous repairs	31

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	458
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations...	2
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	4
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	114

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. ...	79
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	NIL
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	25
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners... ..	19
(b) By local authority in default of owners... ..	NIL

3. C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ...	NIL
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	NIL

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.	NIL
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4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	24
(2) Number of families dwelling therein.	50
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein..	156
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	NIL
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	40
(d) Number of persons concerned in such cases	95
(e) Number of new cases of overcrowding ...	NIL

New Houses During 1950

(a) Total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during the year... ..	34
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(b) Total number of houses erected during 1950	92
(c) Houses erected by Local Authority...	...					68
(d) Houses erected by other persons	...	...				24
(e) War damaged houses rebuilt	...	...	...			NIL

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF
FOOD.

MILK SUPPLIES

At the end of 1950 there were four registered dairies and seven registered distributors operating in the area.

Four dealers bottling licences and two supplementary licences for Tuberculin Tested milk were issued, and one supplementary licence in respect of Pasteurised milk.

Thirty samples were taken from Distributors as follows:-

Twenty-three samples of Tuberculin Tested bottled milk, of which nineteen passed the test.

Four samples of Pasteurised bottled milk, of which three passed the test.

Three samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) bottled milk, all of which passed the test.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Ministry's policy of centralised slaughtering continued during the year. The majority of home killed meat for the Whitstable area is delivered from a public abattoir at South East London. A private slaughterhouse in the town is used by the butchers as a reception depot where the meat is allocated and collected.

Regular inspections are made to secure compliance with the Meat Regulations and the Food & Drugs Act.

Frequent visits are made to all food shops and food preparing establishments, and copies of the Council's

Byelaws relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food have been distributed where necessary.

There was a large increase in the number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream, but a decrease in the number where manufacturing is carried out.

There was a total of 114 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938, embracing manufacture of preserved foods and ice cream, and sale of ice cream.

No new licences are issued by the Ministry of Food in respect of catering establishments until the prior approval of this Department is given.

Twenty-four samples of ice cream were taken during the year, the majority of which attained a high degree of cleanliness; all being free from pathogenic organisms.

UNSOOUND FOOD

The following table denotes the amount of unsound food voluntarily surrendered during the year and for which condemnation certificates were issued:-

	lbs
Meat	1,340
Tinned Meat.. . . .	403
Fish	559
Tinned Fish.. . . .	39
Tinned Milk.. . . .	191
Cheese	28
Flour	36
Tinned Fruit.	219
Jam	56
Sweets	16
Eggs	306
Potatoes	10,080
Miscellaneous	<u>520</u>
	13,793

CONTROL OF MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There were thirteen licensed camping sites, providing accommodation for 940 dwellings, including a number of chalets where sleeping was permitted.

All the camps were well patronised during the season

and were well conducted. There was a fair amount of sporadic camping which necessitated constant supervision.

FACTORIES ACT

There are 118 factories on the register, of which number 91 use mechanical power.

Eleven defects were found, ten of which were remedied during the year.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

Thirty licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit during the year.

Revised conditions regarding associated electrical equipment in connection with petrol service pumps were issued by the Home Office, copies of which were supplied to all persons concerned.

RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, which came into force during the year, placed the duty upon local authorities to ensure that their areas are kept free from rats and mice, and in particular, to carry out such inspections as from time to time might be necessary. They are also required to destroy rats and mice on their own land and enforce the duties of owners and occupiers of land as authorised by the Act. An obligation is also placed upon occupiers of land to report to the local authority infestations involving substantial numbers.

Treatment of private dwelling houses is carried out free of charge, a charge being made in the case of business premises.

My General Assistant has been trained in this work and carries out all treatments.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of complaints received	...	...	165	
Number of Infestations found	...	...	180	Major - Minor 180

Infestations found as a result of independent investigations	Major	-
			Minor	79

Infestations treated by Council's Operator	252
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Infestations treated by occupiers	...	1
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NOTE Major infestations denote twenty rats or more.

The usual maintenance treatment of the sewers was carried out with the following results:-

Test Baiting Treatment - 16th and 17th March 1950.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	36
Number of manholes showing "takes"	...	...	...	2

No.1. Maintenance Treatment - 20th to 22nd March 1950.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	53
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	...	...	...	15
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days	...	...	...	4

No.2. Maintenance Treatment - 20th to 22nd Sept.1950.

Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	44
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take	...	...	...	21
Number of manholes showing complete pre-bait take on one or both days	...	...	...	10

SHOPS ACT

Administration of the Shops Act is carried out by this department under powers delegated by the County Council, and in this connection a separate report has already been made out.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

REFUSE COLLECTION

A once weekly collection of refuse continued to be carried out during the year, two vehicles, side and rear loading types respectively, being employed for the purpose. A third vehicle is used as a reserve, and for special salvage collection.

Wastepaper is collected at the same time as household refuse, householders being asked to bundle their paper beside their bins each week. An increase of 25% of paper collected was attained on 1949 figures.

Arrangements have now been made, with the assistance of the Surveyor's Department, whereby on the occasion of the Whitsun and August Bank Holidays refuse is collected the day after the holiday, thus obviating the necessity for the storage of refuse for a fortnight.

A mass distribution of leaflets to householders was made, the recommendations of which, if faithfully carried out, would lessen the bulk of refuse to be collected, arrange for provision of dustbins where necessary and lengthen their life, lessen the incidence of flies and vermin, improve hygiene generally and improve waste paper collections. It is considered that this leaflet did serve a useful purpose, a tangible result being the increase in the amount of waste paper collected.

Protective clothing was issued to the collectors, consisting of boiler suits, rubber boots and waterproof coats and leggings, which the men very much appreciated.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The controlled method of disposal is carried out at the Council's refuse tip situated off Thanet Way at Yorkletts.

Consideration was given, towards the end of the year, to the acquisition of mechanical equipment for excavating and removing soil to enable more efficient sealing of refuse to take place.

Regular treatments are carried out to eradicate rodents, flies, crickets and other insects.

The principal items of salvage during the year were as follows:-

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Rags	2	8	-	14
Non-ferrous Metals	-	3	3	7
Ferrous Metals	4	8	-	-
Bones	-	1	-	-
Paper	123	17	2	-
Bottles and Jars..		110	dozen	

The amount realized by the Council for this period being £835. 3. 8.

WATER SUPPLIES

Twenty-four samples of water were taken during the year, four from the main supply, all of which were satisfactory, and seventeen from wells, of which four were unfit for drinking purposes. In the case of the unfit samples remedial measures were taken which resulted in a satisfactory supply being obtained.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

Improvements were carried out to the Council's mortuary at Island Wall, including repainting, minor structural alterations and provision of metal screens.

The following bodies were received:-

	Males	Females
Number of bodies admitted - Resident ...	4	7
Number of bodies admitted - Non-resident..	-	1
	4	8

Number of bodies admitted for Post Mortem examinations ...	...	12
Number of Inquests ...	...	3

CAUSES OF DEATH

Natural Causes ...	10
Misadventure.. ...	1
Suicide ...	1
	12

CIVIL DEFENCE

A large proportion of Civil Defence duties falls within the province of the Health Department, and much preliminary work was carried out in this connection. The Sanitary Inspector has been nominated to act as Chief Billeting Officer

designate, Chief Welfare Officer of the appropriate sub-section of the Civil Defence Corps, and the officer responsible for the planning of emergency arrangements in connection with the Civil Defence (Burial) Regulations.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

The following articles were steam disinfected at the Council's Disinfecting Station, Station Road:-

Mattresses	...	...	188
Pillows...	...	...	448
Bolsters..	...	...	21
Blankets..	...	...	103
Sheets ...	...	...	52
Quilts ...	...	...	25
Feather beds	...	...	4
Cushions..	...	...	2
Miscellaneous...	...	...	2
			<u>845</u>

A total number of 120 rooms were disinfected during the year.

The amount realized by the Council for disinfection of bedding etc., was £30. 18. 4.

C O N C L U S I O N

I should like to conclude by expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and encouragement, to Dr. Etheridge for his advice and help, to my staff for their loyal and conscientious assistance, and for the co-operation extended by Officials of other Departments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F.W.I. WHITEHOUSE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

